VIETNAM COURIER

Sept. 14
1970
No. 286
7th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY—E.O.: 46 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI—DRVN

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15th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIET NAM FATHERLAND FRONT OBSERVED IN HANOI

FIFTEEN years ago, on September 10, 1955, in face of new tasks of socialist construction in the North and the effort for national reunification, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front was established to continue the glorious cause of the Viet Minh Front and the Viet Nam People's United Front (Lien Viet).

A commemorative meeting was held in Hanoi on September 8, 1970 to mark the anniversary.

Present at the ceremony were Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN and Chairman of the Presidium of the VNFF Central Committee; Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Presidium of the VNFFCC, and many other Party and State leaders, many members of the VNFFCC, the VNFF representatives of zones, towns and cities all over the North, delegates of political parties, mass organizations, religious sects, ethnic minorities, people's armed forces and envoys of Vietnamese residents back from France on a visit to the native country.

The Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the DRVN was also attending.

In his opening speech President Ton Duc Thang, on behalf of the Presidium, emphasized North Vietnamese determination to march forward, strengthen the monolithic unity of all the nation, implement President Ho Chi Minh's last wishes, closely unite with the brotherly Cambodian and Lao peoples and speed up the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation in military, political and diplomatic fields till complete victory.

In an important speech, Hoang Quoc Viet pointed out that during the past fifteen years, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front had been playing an active role in rallying and encouraging various classes, political parties, minority nationalities, religious sects and patriotic and socialist-minded personalities, thereby mobilizing all the patriotic and progressive forces of the nation for socialist construction and the drive for national reunification.

A delegate, on behalf of the Special Representation of the RSVN, read a congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the CC of the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces.

The meeting wound up with an appeal to the whole nation of the VNFFCC read by a member of the Presidium of the VNFFCC.

Rice-transplanting at Tien Hung Agricultural Co-operative (Thai Binh province)

15th Founding Anniversary of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front

THE VIET NAM FATHERLAND FRONT IS 15 YEARS OLD

DO XUAN SANG
Viet Nam Fatherland Front CC Member

THE Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VNFF) was established on September 10, 1955. The war had ended in July 1954 with the signing of the Geneva Agreements, and the last French troops evacuated Haiphong in May 1955.

North Viet Nam was completely liberated but in the South the Americans superseded the French and ruled over the country by the agency of puppet Ngo Dinh Diem. Their goal was obvious: to sabotage the Geneva Agreements, perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam and turn South Viet Nam into a new colony and US base of aggression. In short, US neo-colonialism substituted for French old colonialism.

In face of the new situation, it was necessary to rally forces of the Vietnamese nation to confront US imperialism and successfully make North Viet Nam a powerful base of the people's national revolution. After completing its work the former Lien Viet Front (Vietnam People's United Front) was replaced by the new front in the task to completely liberate and reunify the Fatherland. Hence its name: Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

Just like the Lien Viet, the VNFF consisted of the three political parties which had taken part in the long war of resistance, mass organizations, various religions and nationalities, as well as patriotic-minded personalities without discrimination between organizations and personalities that had or had not taken part in the war against French colonialism. Millions of people living in enemy-controlled areas could then participate in the political life and do their shares in the achievements of new revolutionary tasks.

By allying the hard and fast principles (leadership of the working class on the basis of the worker-peasant alliance, democracy and mutual assistance within the Front) to supple tactics, the VNFF was able to achieve an identity of views and weld all the social sections into a conscious and coherent force to prop up revolutionary power and carry out the Party's and Government's directives. In fifteen years, the VNFF was greatly instrumental in the big successes of the Vietnamese nation: economic rehabilitation and cultural development in North Viet Nam, socialist transformation and construction without going through the stage of capitalist development, thwarting of the US war of destruction, staunch assistance to South Viet Nam's national liberation movement, etc.

The transformation of North Vietnamese society has in turn changed the qualitative composition of the VNFF which has become a socialist front with its three fundamental component elements, namely the working class, the co-op farmers and the socialist intellectuals including the intelligentsia of the old school in the service of the revolution since 1945 or 1954 and the youth of the new socialist school.

The co-existence of the three political parties — the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Democratic Party and the Socialist Party — which is a striking feature of the VNFF, has never impeded its unity of action based on an identity of views on fundamental objectives, and the constitutions of the Democratic Party and Socialist Party show that these bodies accept the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party in the struggle for the liberation of the South, socialist construction in the North and gradual peaceful reunification of the country.

(Continued page 2)

First Anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's Death Solemnly Observed in Hanoi

On last September 3, on the 1st anniversary of the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh, founding father of the Marxist-Leninist party of the Vietnamese working class and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a solemn ceremony was held in Hanoi by the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, the National Assembly-Standing Committee, the Ministers' Council and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

All the Party and State leaders were present, including Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN and Chairman of the Presidium of the VNFF Central Committee; Nguyen Luong Bang, Vice-President of the DRVN; Le Duan, First Secretary of the VNWP; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee; Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister. Also attending was the Head of the Special Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

On the same day, in enterprises, agricultural and handicraft co-operatives and administrative organs, ceremonies in memory of the president were held by labouring masses.

DRVN News in Brief

THE 22nd founding anniversary of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (September 9) was marked in Hanoi by a film gala and a talk sponsored by the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Viet Nam - Korea Friendship Association.

ON the occasion of the 26th National Day of the Bulgarian People's Republic (September 9), the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries of the DRVN held a film gala and a talk on the achievements gained by the Bulgarian people in socialist construction.

THE new Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea Kim Bieng Sam presented on September 4 his credentials to Vice-President of the DRVN Nguyen Luong Bang.

MR Husni Yunit and Mr Hamdi Mehnit, representatives of the Al Fatah Palestinian liberation movement, left Hanoi on September 3 after a visit to the DRVN at the invitation of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee.

A Chinese medical delegation, led by Prof. Chiang Hsiao and a Chinese journalists' delegation, headed by Shieh Shiao hua, Assistant Director General of Hsin Hua News Agency, arrived in Hanoi on August 31 for a friendship visit at the invitation of the DRVN Health Ministry and the Journalists' Association respectively.

IN their recent visit to the DRVN, E. Cleaves, Minister of the "Black Panther" Party, and Robert Sheer, a candidate of the Peace and Liberty Party to the senatorial elections of California, were received by Premier Pham Van Dong.

A GREAT CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REGIME

WITHIN a week after the Declaration of Independence of Viet Nam and the birth of the DRVN, on September 8, 1945 President Ho Chi Minh signed two decrees, one instituting the "compulsory teaching of the *Quoc Ngu*" (Latinized national script), the other enacting the "organization of popular education class in villages and towns." Thus the first foundation of popular education in Viet Nam was laid.

That education reserved for adults was meant first to wipe out illiteracy which hit 95 per cent of the people, then to gradually raise the cultural standard of those who had no means to finish the ten years' curricula in three degrees of general education schools.

Since then, thanks to a nationwide movement, two million people throughout the country from north to south were freed from illiteracy in the first year of the drive and ten million others in the nine years of resistance to French colonialism. After the signing of the Geneva Agreements in 1954, in three years of strenuous efforts to eradicate the "last resistance pockets" of illiteracy in North Viet Nam, another million adults were taught how to read and write the *Quoc Ngu*, and on December 31, 1958, 93.4 per cent of people from 12 to 50 became literate in the delta and midland inhabited by 90 per cent of the whole population.

In the hard resistance to the US air war of destruction (1965-1968), the campaign was not brought to a halt and 1.7 million people (9 per cent of North Viet Nam population) followed adult courses, half of them attending elementary and secondary schools (from the 5th to the 10th form).

At present, complementary education has made it possible for nearly 2 million grown-ups to finish the 4th form (primary education), over 60,000 the 7th form (elementary education) and over 10,000 the 10th form (secondary education). In the DRVN, one out of three people regularly goes to school on the average, (general education schools as well as popular education classes).

MARKING the 25th anniversary of that branch born from the August Revolution, President Ton Duc Thang, Chairman of the National Executive Board of Complementary Education and Liquidation of Illiteracy, stressed in a message to the complementary education activists that they had been helping fulfil this cherished wish of President Ho Chi Minh: "Our Fatherland must be completely independent, our people completely free, each of our fellow-countrymen provided with adequate food, clothing and education."

THE VIET NAM FATHERLAND FRONT IS 15 YEARS OLD

(Continued from page 1)

With regard to the Viet Nam Workers' Party, which is the nucleus of the leadership of the Front and the main architect of all forms of national unity, from the Indochinese Anti-Imperialist Front (1936), the Indochinese Democratic Front (1938) to the well-known Viet Minh Front (1941) merging in March 1951 with the Lien Viet League which became later the Lien Viet Front, the immediate predecessor of the VNFF, it has never departed from its line of fraternal union and mutual assistance as regards the brother Democratic and Socialist Parties of which it warmly hailed the establishment. Truong Chinh, one of the Viet Nam Workers' Party theoreticians, pointed in his speech delivered at the commemorative meeting held in Hanoi for the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution: "The principle of the exclusive leadership of the working class and its party does not mean refraining from co-operating with any other political party in the revolutionary process. The Viet Nam Workers' Party has been closely co-operating with the Democratic and Socialist Parties through all the revolutionary stages without lessening in the least its leading role" (*Nhan Dan*, Nov. 7, 1967).

The 15th founding anniversary of the VNFF which we are observing in September this year together with the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the DRVN and the first anniversary of the death of President Ho Chi Minh, the honorary president of the VNFF, remind the entire Vietnamese people that the road to independence, freedom and socialist construction is through the sacred unity of all patriotic and progressive forces around the working class and its vanguard party. It corroborates the great historical law of the transitional period from capitalism to socialism on a world scale which says that a nation closely united and provided with a clear-sighted and just leadership can successfully confront any imperialist power even though its population and territory is small.

On the road to socialism, the role of the national united front is not diminished. Premier Pham Van Dong said on August 31, 1970: "Under the present circumstances, in Viet Nam as well as in any other country, the triumph of the revolution does not mean that the revolutionary work has been completed; on the contrary, it creates a new situation, sets forth new revolutionary tasks and requires greater and more strenuous efforts." Thus national unity is more than ever necessary to "rapidly develop North Viet Nam's political military, economic and cultural potentials." The Vietnamese people will remember for ever President Ho Chi Minh's recommendation:

Unity, unity, broader unity,
Success, success, greater success.

They warmly hail the tremendous achievements of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, which together with the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, convened the Congress of South Vietnamese People's Delegates and formed the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

They wholeheartedly greet the splendid success of the united front of the Indochinese peoples against US aggressive imperialism, born of the historic Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples held in April last.

They heartily welcome the greater and greater advances of the front of world's peoples against US imperialist aggression in support of Viet Nam, a front involving millions of Americans, white and coloured, opposing the White House criminal policy, racial segregation and US neo-fascism.

While the imperialist camp is torn by bitter divergences, the unity of the socialist and democratic forces and the forces of national liberation and peace are the outstanding characteristics of modern times and the surest guarantee of victory of the world's peoples over waning imperialism and its new form of domination — neo-colonialism.

Beginning its 16th year of action for freedom and national independence and socialist construction in the North, the VNFF will surely make the greatest contribution to the fulfilment of national revolutionary tasks as well as to the speeding up of the national liberation effort and defence of peace throughout the world.

SEPT. 2, 1945 SEPT. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

RENOVATION OF AGRICULTURE *

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

ANYONE who casts a quick glance on the history of the DRVN since its founding cannot help making this remark: North Viet Nam, the classical famine-stricken land, which had periodically seen millions of people die of starvation all along its history, has not suffered such disasters over the past 25 years. While abundance has not yet been achieved, famine is definitively past and gone. That is one of the most remarkable successes of the new regime.

Is there any Vietnamese who has not kept in mind the horrid memories of the 1944 famine which took a toll of two million lives? The newly born DRVN government quickly brought the calamity under control by mobilizing to the full the forces of the masses. Evidently, final victory over the scourge could not be won by simply having recourse to revolutionary zeal. A radical transformation of agriculture is indispensable.

Anyone who today scours the North Vietnamese plains will not fail to note that the scenery has changed a lot: numerous canals crisscross the deltas, straight embankments and boundaries which delimit the fields and plots have replaced the meandering boundaries and the tiny plots of the past. Man has entirely reshaped the land and given it a new look. Here and there is heard the whirr of an engine operating pump and the noise is a complete novelty, unknown to the Vietnamese peasants only fifteen years ago. A knowledgeable agronomist will promptly notice that new varieties of rice have been introduced, that some farming techniques have changed. A sociologist, just from seeing people walk past, and watching their gait, gestures and words, will soon infer that the North Vietnamese peasantry is not the same as twenty-five years ago.

SUCH a renovation of agriculture has been dual: in the socio-economic structures and the production relations on the one hand, and in the farming methods on the other, the process itself being closely linked to profound ideological and cultural transformations among the peasantry. There have been not a few obstacles on its path.

Everyone knows the multiple difficulties besetting those underdeveloped countries which strive to modernize their agriculture. In the DRVN, everything concurs to make the question thornier than anywhere else: the scantiness of cultivable lands (one-tenth of an hectare per head of population), frequent natural calamities on a considerable scale, one of the world highest population densities and rates of growth, utter backwardness of farming techniques left behind by the colonial and feudal regimes, ravages accumulated through long and bitter wars. The need of producing enough food for a growing population, supplying more goods for export and indispensable raw materials for industrialization, also requires tremendous efforts...

Some Figures

— Indexes of gross agricultural output:

1939	1955	1960	1964	1969
100	126	169	199	190

— Respective percentage of crops and stock-breeding:

	1939	1955	1960	1964	1969
Crops	84.4	86.2	80.9	80.1	78.6
Stock-breeding	15.6	13.8	19.1	19.9	21.4

— Indexes of gross output of various products:

	1939	1955	1960	1965
Paddy	100	137	174	189
Paddy and other food crops	100	143	179	212
Buffaloes	100	133	184	205
Oxen and cows	100	123	152	145
Pigs	100	108	169	211
Sugar cane	100	160	418	689
Jute	100	200	3,279	4,957
Tea	100	70	79	129

— Number of co-operatives at the present time: 25,000 (round numbers) grouping 94% of peasant households
— Graduates from agricultural colleges: 7,000
— Graduates from agricultural middle schools: 40,000

Right after its founding the government of the DVRN buckled down to this gigantic task, putting into effect a fundamental policy laid down by the Communist Party ever since its birth. One after the other, thorough land reform liberated the peasants from feudal exploitation, then agricultural co-operation completely altered the conditions for the exploitation of the soil and farm work as a whole. A new road has been opened to agriculture, and while difficulties remain numerous, it is no less true that the advance to a bright future has begun and it is irreversible.

LIQUIDATION OF FEUDALISM

UNDER the old regime, in the context of small production on tiny plots, the peasants were moreover ground down by colonial and feudal exploitation. They hardly were in a position to combat natural calamities and renovate techniques while the feudal landlords sought to augment their income by more ruthlessly sweating the toiling peasants instead of improving cultivation methods. Such a poor, backward and unbalanced agriculture which was the main economic activity of the country could not serve as basis for industrial and commercial development.

Only the abolition of the feudal land ownership and a drastic agrarian reform could help do away with the hindrances to the productive forces, pave the way for industrial and commercial development and build a national and independent economy. Since the peasants constituted the main forces for national liberation, the recovery of national independence was closely associated with the emancipation of the toiling peasant masses from feudal exploitation.

With the establishment of people's power, the peasantry led by the working class Party was able to materialize its millenary dream: owning the land it tills. As early as November 1945, ground rent was reduced by 25% while the lands which had been appropriated by the French colonialists were allotted to the peasants. In 1948, at a time when the national liberation war was at its fiercest, new measures were taken: further reduction of land rent, abolition of all supplementary rents, equitable distribution of communal land, distribution of land belonging to the colonialists and traitors. These steps were completed in 1949 and 1950. In 1951 the introduction of a new system of agricultural taxes levied on a progressive basis in proportion to the income of the peasants greatly benefited the poor peasants.

In its final stage, in 1953-1954, faced with a large-scale counter-offensive of the US-assisted French colonialists, the Vietnamese resistance had to make new efforts. That war of national liberation was essentially a war of peasants led by the working class Party: the bulk of the people's army as well as the guerillas operating behind the enemy lines and the carriers of war supplies came from peasant stock. In order to meet the growing needs of the war and bring the Resistance to final victory, it was necessary to increase the forces of the peasants and muster up their energies. Hence the need for a thorough solution of the agrarian question. The partial reforms of the previous years had proved inadequate. Two million hectares throughout the country (North and South) still were in the colonialists' and landlords' hands. In the countryside, political power was still more or less wielded by part of the former notables while social, ideological and religious bondages continued to stand in the way of the liberation of the peasants and precluded their full participation in the struggle for national emancipation. The liquidation of the landlords as a class was imperative.

In 1953, a general mobilization of the masses for the enforcement of land reform was launched. Its objectives were:

"Abolish the regime of colonial and feudal land ownership, give land back to the tiller."

And the directive for action was:

"Firmly rely on the landless and poor peasants; achieve close unity with the middle peasant, ally with the rich peasants; end step by step the feudal exploitation while making a distinction between the different categories of landlords; boost agricultural production; vigorously step up the Resistance."

The drive aroused great enthusiasm among millions of peasants, and as pointed out by General Vo Nguyen Giap, it "made a decisive contribution to the historic victory in Dien Bien Phu."

This land reform, effected in many stages, resulted in 1956 in the complete abolition of the feudal land ownership in North Viet Nam. It should be recalled that the successive reforms carried out from 1945 to 1954 returned 650,000 hectares to the poor peasants in the territories south of the 17th parallel. In North Viet Nam, from 1953 to 1956, 800,000 hectares were distributed to the peasants, not counting the dwelling houses, cattle and farm implements.

These figures may appear paltry to those who have got used to vast expanses of land (in Latin America for instance). They however spell out a historic turning point for Viet Nam, marking the liquidation of the centuries-old feudal regime, the liberation of a dozen million peasants and their access not only to land ownership but also to human dignity. The mistakes committed in the course of it (and already rectified) can in no way belittle the importance and success of the first fundamental revolution in the domain of the production relations, revolution that paved the way for all subsequent progress.

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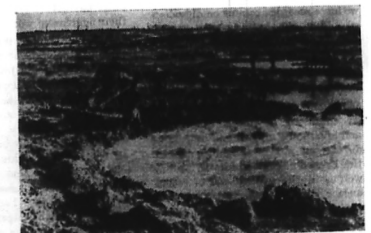
* *For a more exhaustive study, see the series of* Vietnamese Studies *devoted to agricultural problems, Nos 2, 13, 27.*



The co-op farmers of T. village (Vinh Linh) filling bomb craters for the autumn cultivation

25 YEARS OF NATIONAL STRUGGLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Excerpts from Premier PHAM VAN DONG's speech at the grand meeting held on Aug. 31 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the August Revolution and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

(CONCLUDED)

THE time when the US imperialists could rule the roost is past and gone, and no frantic counter-revolutionary acts of theirs can save them. The US-led imperialists have sought a thousand and one means to counter-attack the world revolutionary movement. They have tried their hardest to revive Japanese militarism and West German fascism, feverishly step up the arms race, encircle, threaten and sabotage socialist countries, and have resorted to every way and means to sow discord in the socialist camp.

As regards the independent countries of the Third World, the US-led imperialists have increased their interference in their affairs, engineered *coups d'état* to bring their henchmen to power, actively carried out neo-colonialism in one form or another, including the waging of "special wars" or "limited wars." But they have repeatedly sustained heavy defeats. The world revolutionary forces, applying an offensive strategy, have repulsed imperialism step by step and knocked it down part by part, accelerating the process of its inevitable doom.

The past 25 years have been the continuation and development of the trend of the first half of the 20th century when a new era opened in human history with the triumph of the great October Revolution and the coming into existence of the USSR. The remaining 30 years of this century will be a period indissolubly linked with the Vietnamese people's struggle and success of historic and international significance, with the great fight of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism and with the visible weakening of US-led imperialism. It will certainly witness the rapid growth and still more brilliant victories of the revolutionary cause of the working class and people of the world.

From the outset, our people, educated by President Ho Chi Minh and the Party, have combined patriotism with proletarian internationalism, always conscious that their revolutionary struggle is an inseparable part of the revolutionary cause of the world's peoples. All the successes we have recorded cannot be dissociated from the international support and assistance given us by our brothers and friends in all continents.

The Vietnamese people will for ever be grateful to the Soviet Union, China and the other fraternal socialist countries for their tremendous and invaluable support and assistance during our war of resistance against the French colonialists in the past as well as in the present war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, and the building of socialism in North Viet Nam. We are sincerely grateful to the international communist and workers' movement for the sympathy and support which has been accorded us in the spirit of proletarian internationalism. We are sincerely grateful to the peoples of Asian, African and Latin American countries, the peace- and democracy-loving people in the world, including the progressive people in the United States, for their warm sympathy and very effective support. To remain worthy of this noble international support, the Vietnamese people will always do their utmost to fulfil their internationalist duty.

The Vietnamese people firmly support the fraternal Lao people's struggle under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong, against the US imperialists and their lackeys; we firmly support the 5-point solution enunciated on March 6, 1970, by the Lao Patriotic Front aimed at solving the Lao question on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and the realities of the present situation in Laos; we resolutely demand that the US stop its war of aggression against Laos, withdraw totally and unconditionally all US troops and military personnel, and all Thai and South Vietnamese mercenaries from Laos, first and foremost, that it should completely and unconditionally end the bombing of Lao territory, in order to create facilities for the Lao parties concerned to meet one another.

Our people firmly support the valiant struggle waged by the fraternal Khmer people rallied in the National United Front of Kampuchea headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, who are defeating the US imperialist aggressors and the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique. We firmly support the 5-point Proclamation of March 23, 1970 of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Political Program of the National United Front of Kampuchea. We firmly support the only legal and authentic Government of Cambodia—the Royal National Union Government of Cambodia headed by Samdech Penn Nouth. We sternly condemn the US imperialists for using their henchmen in South Viet Nam and scheming to use their lackeys in Thailand and other satellite countries to carry on their aggressive war in Cambodia.

The Vietnamese people, now as ever, will respect the sacred commitments made in the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, respect the independence, peace, neutrality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders, respect all the national rights of the Khmer and Lao people and any political regimes of their choice. They pledge to unite with the Lao and Khmer peoples to fight against the US imperialist aggressors and co-operate with them on a long term basis to build our own respective countries. Conscious that the socialist camp is the sacred gain of the revolutionary struggle of the working class and labouring people the world over, the Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN have always contributed their utmost to strengthening the solidarity and friendship among the brother countries, consolidating and developing the strength of each country and of the socialist camp as a whole. We warmly hail the all-round brilliant achievements of the Soviet Union, China and the other fraternal countries in the building of socialism and communism, which we consider as a great contribution to the world people's revolutionary cause and the safeguarding of world peace. Acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament, we have done all in our power to contribute to the restoration and consolidation of the solidarity of the socialist camp and the international communist and workers' movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in accordance with both reason and sentiment.

We firmly support the Chinese people in their struggle for the recovery of Taiwan, an inseparable territory of the People's Republic of China; the Korean people who are struggling against US imperialist aggression, for the liberation of the southern part of Korea; the Cuban people in their struggle against the US imperialists who are encroaching upon the security and sovereignty of the Cuban Republic, for the defence of the Fatherland and building of socialism; the people of the German Democratic Republic now struggling to demand that the West German government recognize the GDR in terms of international law, recognize her sovereignty and territorial integrity, and truly respect the inviolability of the frontiers in Europe, including those between the two German States and the Oder-Neisse line.

We firmly support the Asian, African and Latin American peoples in their struggle against imperialism and old and new colonialism, for independence and freedom; the Thai people's struggle against the US imperialists and the Thanom-Praphas reactionary clique; the Japanese people's struggle against US imperialism, against the revival of Japanese militarism, to achieve an independent, peaceful, democratic, neutral and prosperous Japan; the Palestinian people and the people of other Arab countries, now struggling against the Israeli aggressors, henchmen of US imperialism, to win back their fundamental national rights; the American people, whites and blacks, in their struggle against aggressive wars and racial discrimination, for peace and their own legitimate interests. We resolutely support the protracted, arduous but certainly victorious struggle waged by the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

WE have on many occasions declared that we are fighting to win genuine independence and genuine peace at all costs, and that so long as these sacred objectives are not reached, we will fight on no matter how long it will take and what sacrifices we may have to make. We have also stated that nobody cherishes peace more than the Vietnamese people do, but the peace we want must be genuine and stable peace, not a "Pax Americana." It must be peace associated with national independence and democratic freedoms.

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In the Hai Hung Chinaware Factory

MESSAGES OF GREETING

FROM SOVIET LEADERS

THE Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has become an advanced base of socialism in Southeast Asia, demonstrating once more, by its very existence, the soundness of the Marxist-Leninist thesis on the possibility, in our epoch, of advancing from the colonial and backward regime to socialism.

The heroic effort of the Vietnamese people against rapacious imperialists has proved that a people having taken the destiny of its country into its own hands and relying on the multifarious assistance and support of the socialist countries and on international solidarity, is invincible. The American aggressors have met with a relevant riposte in Viet Nam.

On this memorable day, we convey our fraternal greetings to the Viet Nam Workers' Party, militant vanguard of the Vietnamese people in the building of socialism and in the resistance against US aggression.

We warmly congratulate the workers, peasants and intellectuals, valiant defenders of democratic Viet Nam, all those who, carrying out President Ho Chi Minh's behests, are multiplying, by their zealous labour and selfless exertions, the riches of their socialist fatherland and the achievements of their struggle against imperialist aggression.

True to the Leninist principles of proletarian internationalism, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the USSR and the Soviet people as a whole consider it their duty to accord an all-round assistance and support to the brother Vietnamese people engaged in a patriotic struggle against US aggression. We approve and unreservedly support the unswerving position of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem, for the unconditional withdrawal of US troops and those of its satellites from Viet Nam so that the Vietnamese people can settle by themselves their own affairs.

The Vietnamese people and the whole progressive mankind are celebrating the 25th founding anniversary of the first socialist State in Southeast Asia at a time when the American militarists are making new provocations by extending the front of imperialist aggression to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula. But it is clear from the experience of the Vietnamese people's struggle that the imperialists' plans are doomed to failure and that the just cause of the peoples of Indochina will triumph.

On the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, we extend to you, dear friends, as well as to the entire Vietnamese people, our sincere wish for new important achievements in socialist construction, in their effort to fulfil the principal national task: defend the North, liberate the South and reunify the country.

(Excerpts from the joint message sent to Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN; Le Duan, First Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; and Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the DRVN; by L.I. Brezhnev, Secretary General of the CC of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; N.V. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Soviet; and A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.)

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FROM CHINESE LEADERS

THE Vietnamese people have been fighting a glorious battle over the past 25 years. Under the wise leadership of the Vietnamese people's great leader, President Ho Chi Minh, and the Viet Nam Workers' Party, they have been continuously defeating, with revolutionary wars, imperialist wars of aggression, winning one brilliant victory after another. Particularly in the last decade and more, the South Vietnamese people, displaying revolutionary heroism, have held in check the most atrocious war of aggression made by US imperialism and badly battered the US aggressors, while the people in North Viet Nam have victoriously resisted US imperialist aggression and scored outstanding achievements in socialist construction. The great successes of the Vietnamese people's war against US aggression and for national salvation have set a glowing example to the people of the world in their revolutionary drives against imperialism.

The three Indochinese peoples' highly successful resistance against US aggression and for national salvation has greatly inspired, and given considerable support to, the peoples of the world in their revolutionary movements. A new upsurge in the effort against the US aggressors and all their running dogs is apparent throughout the world.

In order to extricate itself from its Indochina morass US imperialism is pushing up its counter-revolutionary dual tactics even more blatantly, while persistently expanding the war. It is hatching all kinds of schemes and machinations in a vain attempt to stamp out the raging flames of the three Indochinese peoples' war against US aggression and for national salvation. However, the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia who have been long tempered cannot be cowed or duped, and all US imperialist schemes and machinations are doomed to failure.

The Chinese people have always regarded it as their internationalist duty to support and assist the three Indochinese peoples in their war against US aggression and for national salvation. We believe that the Vietnamese people and the peoples of Laos and Cambodia, strengthening their unity, supporting and assisting each other and persevering in a protracted people's war, will certainly overcome the difficulties on their path and drive all the US aggressors out of Indochina. The Chinese people and the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia are brothers and comrades-in-arms. We will always maintain our unity, fight together and carry the day together.

Victory surely belongs to the heroic Vietnamese people and Indochinese peoples!

(Excerpts from the joint message sent to Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN; Le Duan, First Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; and Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the DRVN; by Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the CC of the Communist Party of China; Lin Piao, Vice-Chairman of the CC of the Communist Party of China; and Chou En lai, Premier of the State Council of the PR of China.)

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FROM CAMBODIAN HEAD OF STATE SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK
President of the United Front of Kampuchea

ON behalf of the Khmer people, the National United Front of Kampuchea, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, and in my own name, I convey to the great fraternal Vietnamese people and their renowned leaders, disciples and companion-in-arms of the venerated, beloved and deeply regretted President Ho Chi Minh, our profound admiration for their heroic and victorious struggle against various imperialisms in the past and at present and for their prodigious socialist achievements in the social, cultural and economic fields which are the people's work, whose successes are all the more admirable for having been achieved in the course of a long war imposed on our Indochina by foreign imperialists.

We pay our very respectful and fervent homage to the august memory of President Ho Chi Minh, father of the Vietnamese revolution and national liberation movement, who has made of Viet Nam, the authentic fatherland of the Indochinese resistance against French colonialism, Japanese militarism and now US imperialism.

History has also recognized President Ho Chi Minh as a great architect of the friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. We, Khmers, are proud and happy to have made an effective contribution to the realization of one of the most earnest aspirations of your national hero, who is also the most celebrated and the most heroic Indochinese, by taking the initiative of convening five years ago the first Conference of the Indochinese Peoples in Phnom Penh and proposing this year the Summit Conference of our three peoples on the Sino-Indochinese border, to cement to the utmost the friendship, fraternity and militant solidarity between our peoples.

(Excerpts)

FROM PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG
Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee

THE successful August Revolution and the great achievements of the Vietnamese people over the past 25 years have filled the peace- and justice-loving people in the world with enthusiasm and confidence. The DRVN's prestige and position have been heightened with each passing day in the international arena.

These achievements have also been precious lessons, a great stimulation to the national liberation movements in Asia and the world. Especially they have been inspiring the Lao revolution ever since the first days.

As the most intimate comrade-in-arms of the Vietnamese people, the Lao people are greatly elated at their splendid gains and regard them as their own.

The Lao people firmly believe that under the clearsighted leadership of the Party and Government of the DRVN, the Vietnamese people will record new, great and splendid successes in the socialist construction in North Viet Nam and the liberation of the South, and the ultimate reunification of the Fatherland.

In their revolutionary struggle for national liberation, the Lao people have always enjoyed the support and devoted assistance of the Party, people and Government of the DRVN, for which we take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Lao people and the Lao Patriotic Front our deep gratitude. May the fraternal bonds of friendship and fighting solidarity between our two peoples last for ever and develop with every passing day!

(Excerpts)

Messages of greeting were also received from leaders of other brother and friendly countries. The 25th founding anniversary of the DRVN was moreover commemorated in many capitals in multiple ways: meetings and rallies, Vietnamese film weeks, exhibitions of photos on Viet Nam's struggle against US aggression, etc.

PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG GREETS NON-ALIGNED NATIONS' SUMMIT

President Ton Duc Thang sent on September 7 the following message of greeting to the Non-Aligned Nations' Summit in Lusaka:

ON behalf of the Vietnamese people, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and in my own name, I wish to convey to the Conference and to Your Excellencies our warm congratulations.

The Vietnamese people approve and unreservedly support the legitimate aspirations and demands of the peoples, in particular of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, namely independence, peace and a new, prosperous and happy life.

With regard to the patriotic resistance of the Vietnamese people against US aggression, for independence and freedom, previous conferences of non-aligned nations have passed resolutions of sympathy and support. I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellencies my sincere thanks therefor.

I wish the Conference complete success. Such an outcome will be a worthy contribution to the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, to the national liberation cause and to the strengthening of the co-operation and friendship among the nations and the defence of world peace.

News from CAMBODIA

CAMBODIAN PATRIOTIC FORCES KEEP UP DEVASTATING ACTIONS ON LON NOL TROOPS

THE Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces attacked on August 17 the enemy at Prek Tameak, 15km north of Phnom Penh, and inflicted 25 casualties on them. On August 18, they put out of action 200 men of 2 Lon Nol battalions at Russey, 10km north of Phnom Penh. Rescue river boats sent in also took heavy casualties. From August 18 to 21, between Phnom Penh and Prek Tameak, the patriotic forces sank or burnt 13 enemy vessels (7 on Aug. 18 alone).

Lon Nol troops' disintegration has been going on and many of them have crossed over to the side of the liberation armed forces: about 30 men between August 7 and 13 in Siemreap area, a dozen in Kompong Thom on Aug. 13, and chiefly, all the officers and men of the Krung sub-sector garrison (Koh Koog province, on the coast of the Thailand Gulf).

VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS INHUMANLY TREATED

DR Vu Dinh Tung, Chairman of the DRVN Red Cross Society, has sent to the International Red Cross a message denouncing the inhuman treatment meted out to Vietnamese residents in Cambodia by the Lon Nol clique who has concentrated 3,000 of them in Poipet where most miserable living conditions and lack of food, clothing and medicines have caused many dead among them.

THE VOICE OF FIGHTING CAMBODIA DENOUNCES LON NOL'S TRICK

IN a commentary of September 8, the *FUNK Voice* denounced Lon Nol quoting, in a message to the Chiefs of State of non-aligned countries, of a broadcast said to be by the *FUNK Voice* which in fact was a US fabrication, according to which Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk intended to turn Cambodia into a communist country closely associated with other Asian communist states. In addition, Lon Nol agents spread a rumour that in a call to the nation Samdech Norodom Sihanouk had admitted the North Vietnamese troops' presence in Cambodia.

The *FUNK Voice* emphatically rejected all these allegations aimed at sowing division between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples and at the same time at deceiving public opinion at the time when the non-aligned countries were holding their conference in Lusaka.

AN AFRICAN JOURNALIST BACK FROM FREE LAOS

On March 25, four members of a Belgian TV team were reported "missing" in Laos and their death was announced by the Vientiane administration. However, two months later, they returned safe from the liberated zone, one of them, an African journalist called Abasa Aidara published in Africasia an account, excerpts of which are given below:

IT may seem a paradox that to make a reportage about the liberated zone of the Neo Lao Haksat (Lao Patriotic Front) a TV team passed through Vientiane. This was our case. It enabled us to appraise the anonymous support extended the Neo Lao Haksat by the Lao people even in the Vientiane-controlled areas.

Hereunder is the unfolding of our trip towards the liberated areas.

Starting on March 24 from Luang Prabang on a sampan, we were spotted on the Nam Ou river by three L. 19 reconnaissance aircraft. One hour afterwards, we were attacked by two L.28 planes. A classical bombing: a dozen bombs including two pellet bombs, then strafing.

First question: Where could these aircraft come from? Either from Luang Prabang or from Udone US base in Thailand. We were then at 5 minutes' flight from Luang Prabang which is the military area controlling the Nam Ou river, and were told later on that spotted at 16 hours we would be attacked at 16:15 or 16:20 at the latest if the planes come from Luang Prabang. But if we were certain to be attacked at 17 hours the planes surely came from Udone.

Having left our sampan and our material we were greeted by Pathet Lao elements which did not know us and were unaware of our rendez-vous with some of their superiors. A priori, we would be "suspects," but the first contact was friendly. What moved us first was the fire lit for warming the "rescued." The enquiry, unavoidable in such a circumstance, was most courteous. The next day, soldiers were sent to recover our material from the Nam Ou. It was a tactful way to prove their solicitude and to check our declarations. The material was brought back but unfortunately unusable because of a long stay in the water.

Then we carried on our trip. First impressions of a night voyage in a motored sampan, the many falls being negotiated on foot, and first contacts with these endless rows of people carrying supplies on their backs at night. We stayed two months in the liberated areas of Laos.

What we saw first was a people struggling and conscious of the why of this struggle. Hence their ingeniousness: fire without visible smoke (the peasants having invented chimneys which drifted the smoke on the ground), knives the blades of which were made from bomb splinters while the handles from plane wreckages. One of the Pathet Lao responsible cadres told me: "The Americans wanted to bring us back to the Stone Age but with this stone we make the weapons which serve to defeat them."

At an arms-repair workshop in the Lao liberated zone

Let us see what the Lao people must protest themselves against:

First the various types of bombs. Let us overlook the "conventional" explosive bombs, the pellet or fragmentation bombs and let us see the "refinements" of US technology:

— Anti-personnel mines. They are in plastic, the size of a matchbox. Their lively colours, red, green, blue, attract the children. They are dropped on vast areas and their blast provokes an amputation of inferior limbs.

— Tetrachic thorns: they stand on their three spikes and have another spike directed upwards. Dropped on the trails, they wound the feet of those who walk on those paths where trucks cannot use.

For all those air attacks, there are T. 28s, but also F.105s, F.4Cs and F.4Ds and AD.6s.

Then there are magnetic mines dropped on the rivers and exploding at the contact of a metallic thing. This is meant to hinder the supply of areas farther south. But all this display of modern technique is shattered by the hearing, sight and sense of responsibilities of the Lao population.

Golden rule: no panic. We have been stunned by these young people quietly sleeping when the planes come but standing up before you when danger crops in.

You wonder why they can detect a type of plane after the sound it makes, estimate its distance and forecast the degree of danger it may cause. You are impressed by the friendship between the various strata of the Lao population in the Pathet Lao zone, a friendship which is seen only in the periods of resistance war and people's war.

Another solicitous care moved us: One day, we were scheduled to start off at 18 hours. At 16 hours we were told that the trip was postponed for the river had been missed by enemy planes. One of our guides then uneasily said to us: "Pathet Lao sorry!" What a wonder: they apologized for US bombing!

In each village we crossed, the same scenario was repeated: you were asked to excuse them for their poor accommodation to greet you but this always ended by a fantastic meal, and you asked yourselves what the meal would be had it not been for the war.

We were treated with particular attention by the Pathet Lao. Despite the permanent danger and the material difficulties we were privileged guests. Razor blades, tooth-brush, fresh meals (chickens, pigs, moles, fishes, milk cans), all this seems derisory in the Western world. But in a country where bomb craters serve as truck-gardens, the tilling is

(Continued page 7)

25 YEARS...

(Continued from page 4)

which safeguards the life and interests of the people of all strata.

Such peace is the goal of our struggle. It has been expounded in the ten-point overall solution, of which the following two points should once again be stressed:

1. The United States must unconditionally withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp.

2. A provisional coalition government must be set up in South Viet Nam to organize free and democratic elections with a view to setting up an official coalition government in South Viet Nam.

To withdraw the US troops and troops of the foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam is to really respect the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam. To form a broad provisional coalition government in the spirit of national concord in order to hold really free and democratic general elections in South Viet Nam is a fair, reasonable and necessary measure to ensure the right of the South Vietnamese people to self-determination.

Those two key points are closely related to each other. Only when those two points are fully observed can genuine and durable peace be ensured, because any correct settlement of the Viet Nam question must be based on respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right of the South Vietnamese people to self-determination. The refusal by the US to withdraw all American troops, its scheme to maintain a big part of the US forces in South Viet Nam to occupy it permanently, and its obdurate maintenance in power of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration, its stooge, which stubbornly opposes peace and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, constitute the very obstacle to a political settlement in South Viet Nam.

The ruling circles in the White House and the Thieu clique also talk of peace. But what meaning can their "peace" professions have when they are seeking by all means to step up the "Vietnamization of the war" and perpetuate the presence of US occupation troops in South Viet Nam? Obviously they can pull the wool over nobody's eyes but only reveal more clearly their aggressive and warlike nature. There also lies the reason why they oppose the coalition government. The NFL's proposal to set up a coalition government stems from a noble national and humane spirit. In the present political and social situation in South Viet Nam, after years of war and chaos, the most important thing, the prerequisite for the restoration of a normal life for society and for each Vietnamese is the realization of a policy of great national union and national harmony without any discrimination, as expounded in the Political Programme of the NFL.

This policy will have a direct effect on the people of all strata, arousing their enthusiasm, mutual love and confidence, which are very necessary for stabilizing the political and social situation in South Viet Nam.

This policy will stir up the very natural patriotism of every Vietnamese, including those who have served in the puppet army and administration. Not only does the policy of the NFL and PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam never advocate "reprisals," but it is intended to eliminate all enmity among the people of various strata in the interest of the great cause of the nation and of every South Vietnamese. In opposing the setting up of a coalition government, the US aggressors and their henchmen are opposing the policy of national concord and great national union. They want to prolong and step up the "Vietnamization of the war" to make Vietnamese fight Vietnamese and realize this odious design of the US aggressors: "To change the colour of the skin of the corpses."

The fight of our people against the US aggressors and their policy of "Vietnamization of the war" is developing in favourable conditions. But we never forget that we are facing an extremely obdurate and cruel enemy who will stop at no barbarous crimes and perfidious manœuvres to realize his dark design. More than ever before, our people must keep firm their determination to fight and win, they must persevere in and step up the fight on the three fronts: military, political and diplomatic, till complete victory.

83rd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Sept. 10, 1970)

NIXON'S OBSTINACY AGAIN EXPOSED

MINISTER Xuan Thuy, chief of the DRVN Government Delegation, once more flayed the Nixon administration's obdurate stance in the settlement of the Viet Nam issue which was apparent in three important policies of the US President: Vietnamization of the war, negotiation from a position of strength and the "Nixon doctrine" of pitting Asians against Asians.

He reiterated the Vietnamese people's position: rapid and unconditional withdrawal of all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, dismantlement of US military bases in South Viet Nam, cessation of US support to Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate, and freedom for the South Vietnamese people to set up a provisional coalition government to be entrusted with the organization of really free and democratic general elections. The Viet Nam problem can be solved only when these demands are met, he emphasized.

An African Journalist...

(Continued from page 6)

done at night, fishery by means of grenades, stock-breeding in hidden areas — because men are not the only targets of US planes but also animals and crops—you better appreciate the good heart, the sense of responsibilities of the Pathet Lao members who greeted you.

I smile when I think that the life in a calm European capital creates problems of nervous equilibrium whereas the Lao population daily experiencing 5 to 6 bombings show no sign of nervosity.

On the contrary, I found humour everywhere. One of their songs said: "We live in misery because of the Americans, pooh!" after what everybody laughed. There lies the strength of the Lao population in the liberated areas. I would like to tell some personal reflections. An African, I cannot help make a comparison with the situation in Africa. I must admit that my first reaction was an admiration for the leaders of the Neo Lao Haksat, their probity, their honesty and their courage. My second impression was the realization that this people relied first on its own forces. In spite of the war illiteracy is being combated, education is given, economic development goes on, the remotest areas are visited by roving medical teams, hygiene rules are taught. I have spoken of bomb craters used as truck-gardens, of night tilling in areas under bombing, of the people's education: all this follows a well-arranged and carefully considered plan.

Renovation of Agriculture

(Continued from page 3)

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION

THE land reform gave birth to several million small private land holdings averaging one-half or one-third of an hectare each; it stimulated farm production which made significant steps forwards in the period 1957-59. However, with such small land holdings, the limits of the technical renovation initiated by it soon became apparent while an economic and social differentiation began taking place in the countryside, risking to bring about the formation of new social classes to the detriment of poor and least favoured peasants.

It was necessary therefore to opt for socialism and agricultural co-operation with a view to a profound renovation of agriculture and an important marketable farm production that would help in industrialization, improve the peasants, material and cultural welfare and ward off the splitting of the peasantry into antagonistic classes.

At the end of 1968, the Viet Nam Workers' Party decided to launch the movement for agricultural co-operation, an essential link in socialist revolution. Only co-operative farming could ensure a quick development of agriculture which constitutes the basis for industrial development, fundamental task of socialist construction. The worker-peasant alliance, forged in the course of the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal fight, was raised to higher level through the building of socialism.

The Vietnamese peasant, turned a small land owner, was on the one hand attached to his plot. However, he had learnt by experience that tilling their tiny plots, he and the other newly-emancipated small farmers were in no position to wage an effective combat against recurrent natural calamities as well as to apply new farming techniques. On the other hand, through long years of political and armed struggle under the leadership of the working class Party, millions of peasants had acquired a high political consciousness and clear notions about socialism and were aspiring for a life of plenty and freedom.

Irrigation projects called for collective work as well as collective land ownership. Besides, after many years of war, the Party now counted hundreds of thousands of members trusted by millions of peasants. Objective and subjective conditions for agricultural co-operation had thus been fulfilled.

In fact, the campaign launched in 1958 wound up by the end of 1960 with substantial results: 85% of the peasant households joined the co-ops. This adherence was made on a voluntary basis following heated discussions on which of the two roads to follow, that of individual farming and capitalist development, or that of co-operation and advance towards socialism. These co-ops were low-level, semi-socialist ones grouping at the beginning only a few dozens families with a few dozens hectares of land to till, sometimes a few hundred families with a few hundred hectares of land to till. By 1961, agricultural co-operation could be regarded as in the main completed: new production relations emerged in the North Viet Nam countryside, marking a decisive stage. They had to be licked into shape, which was the work of the following years.

The US air and naval war against the DRVN was for her agricultural co-operatives one of the hardest trials but it also provided an opportunity for them to demonstrate their superiority over individual farming. Neither the considerable damage caused by the bombing raids, nor the losses in lives, nor the manpower shortage occasioned by the call-up of many young men, prevented the co-ops from consolidating, attending to the wounded and bringing assistance to the families victims of war or in difficulties. The peasants came to understand, and in a profound manner, that without the co-ops, hundreds of thousands of families would have, in such conditions, gone to rack and ruin.

Today, it is safe to say that co-operation has become an irreversible process. The quasi-totality of the peasants have realized that there cannot be any possible future outside the co-operatives. Now it is no longer question of choosing between the co-op and individual farming. It remains only to raise quickly the technical and managerial capacity and the efficiency of the co-ops.

(To be continued)

MILITARY OPERATIONS

PLAF Mount 200 Attacks in the Whole of South Viet Nam (Aug. 28 - 31, 1970)

IN CENTRAL VIET NAM

BETWEEN *Quang Tri* and *Cam Ranh*, over a hundred enemy positions attacked, including brigade HQ of puppet marines in *An Hoa*, *Da Nang* airbase, *Go Tram* military training-centre, *Nha Trang* airfield and division HQ of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries in *Ninh Hoa*.

In *Nhan Phuoc*, the civil guard group No 254 wiped out (night of Aug. 28 and next day). *Quy Nhon* military installations and a military sub-sector, NW of Quy Nhon, assaulted three times successively : a hundred enemy troops put out of action, among them 60 US officers, 3 puppet sectors razed, 35 military vehicles destroyed (night of Aug. 29).

The logistic quarter of US base in *Cam Ranh* came under fire : 7 reservoirs containing 3 million litres of gasoline set ablaze, large numbers of GI's killed or wounded (night of Aug. 29).

IN SOUTH VIET NAM PROPER

IN *My Tho* province, more than 30 enemy bases and positions assailed : a sapper company and 2 civil guard and militia sections of the puppet 7th Division destroyed (night of Aug. 30 and next day), the puppet 44th Ranger Battalion decimated (night of Aug. 29).

In *Tra Vinh* province, 25 enemy positions and bases assailed, including military sub-sectors of *Cau Ke*, *Tieu Can* and *Cau Ngang* districts : over 200 troops put out of action (Aug. 28).

In *Ca Mau* province, the 4th Battalion of the 33rd Regiment of the puppet 21st Division decimated (Aug. 28). In *Rach Gia* province, 2 military sub-sectors attacked : 200 enemy casualties.

IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

21 enemy targets, including an airfield and a logistic quarter in *Buon Me Thuot* together with *Cheo Reo* military sector, attacked (night of Aug. 29 and next day).

Enemy strongholds on Hill 665, south of *Coc Bai* area (SW of Quang Tri) pounded : 200 casualties (Sept. 2-5).

Guerillas in action

SOUTH VIETNAMESE STUDENT EFFERVESCENCE STILL RISING

FOLLOWING the 24-hour hunger - strike of the Pharmacy students in Saigon (Aug. 21) and their school boycott (Aug. 22-30) in protest against the drafting of pharmacists by the puppet authorities, 1,000 representatives of students and pupils in Saigon, Can Tho, Da Lat and Hue met on Aug. 30 at the Saigon Agricultural College to discuss measures against the rulers, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. The rally soon turned out for a parade displaying banners with this slogan "Students and pupils are dead set against military training."

On their way to Thieu's "Independence" Palace, the demonstrators were intercepted by puppet MP Company 4 and hundreds of policemen. The thugs, under the command of General Tran Van Hai, Director of the [puppet] National Police, and Trang Si Tan, Director of Saigon Police, used tear gas grenades, rifle butts and bludgeons to force them back to the College, pursued them into the establishment and hurled at them over 200 tear grenades. Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon General Association of Students, was beaten to insensibility and badly wounded. 117 students and pupils, including 42 girl students, were taken away. Saigon and foreign journalists, who were covering the action, also received blows from the police and their cameras and even their cars were damaged. Though their credentials were in order, some of them were apprehended.

A *Giai Phong* Press Agency Saigon correspondent reported that on Sept. 1 a delegation of students and pupils representing all Saigon schools and colleges made representations to the puppet Education Minister. Meanwhile a lot of other delegates staged a hunger strike in protest and for the release of their mates detained since Aug. 30. Eight protestors were affected by the drinking water poisoned by agents of the regime and vomited blood and fainted.

On Sept. 2, the puppet administration was forced to free 113 students and pupils but detained their leaders : Huynh Tan Mam, Nguyen Van Vinh, Tran Hoai and Le Van Nuoi.

On Sept. 3, representatives of the released students convened a press conference. One of them, Nguyen Van Tu, denounced that the puppet authorities had ordered their policemen of the First District in Saigon to beat up the detainees. He also made known that right on the first day, they had confined the 117 arrested in two rooms, two metres wide by six metres long each, where not even the seriously wounded could sit down. After that, the girl students and pupils were transferred to the prostitutes' and women thieves' ward. He added that student leaders were still held in Chi Hoa prison.

On Sept. 7, Huynh Tan Mam and his prison mates started an indefinite hunger-strike.

The student agitation has been going on since early this year.

News from LAOS

800 VIENTIANE PUPPET TROOPS KNOCKED OUT, 7 PLANES DOWNED OR DESTROYED ON THE GROUND

DESPITE the rains, in August last, the People's Liberation Armed Forces fought about one hundred battles and put out of action at least 800 adverse soldiers, downed or destroyed 7 planes and helicopters, seized or wrecked 650 fire-arms and set fire to 2 munition depots.

The hardest hit was the Samthong-Longcheng area, southwest of the Plain of Jars, in which, from August 1 to 23, 10 Vientiane battalions, badly battered, took 300 casualties and lost 400 fire-arms captured or destroyed and 2 planes downed.

South of Laos, in Saravane and Khong areas, the Lao patriotic forces wiped out 200 puppet troops.

NEW US MILITARY ADVENTURE

THE spokesman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee has made a statement condemning the US imperialists' and the Vientiane puppet administration's new large-scale operations against the liberated zone in Xieng Khoang province.

"From August 16 to 26, 1970," the statement said, "the US and its lackeys deployed into the liberated zone 12 mercenary battalions, including 4 battalions of Thai combat troops, for an operation codenamed 'Tha Nong Kiet' in the southwestern part of the Plain of Jars.

"In co-ordination with this action, in the three days ending August 21, 1970, dozens of American aircraft including F.4Hs, F.105s and T.28s wantonly struck at Pakha, Nong Het, Muong Kham, Muong The, San Cho, Tha Lin and Ban Ban areas in Xieng Khoang province, causing heavy losses in lives and property of the people.

"Along with this attack, the US imperialists and their henchmen from August 14 to 26, mustered three Vientiane puppet battalions under the cover of US aircraft and artillery in a raid on Pak U area, northeast of Luang Prabang. Apart from savage atrocities against the local population, the enemy forcibly drafted some 300 young men into the puppet army.

"These US imperialists' and their stooges' moves were a new military adventure which has been aggravating the tension in Laos and hindering a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem which the Lao Patriotic Front has been over the past years persistently struggling for. First and foremost, it is in the way of the holding of the forthcoming meeting between the two Princes' plenipotentiaries in preparation for talks among the Lao parties concerned."

Repression of Puppet War Invalids

ON Sept. 3, thousands of military policemen and rangers cracked down on war invalids demonstrating for better living conditions. The latter fought back with fire-arms and hand grenades taken from the assailants ; in the clash one of them was killed, a dozen were wounded and 80 others arrested.

On Sept. 4, one thousand policemen and rangers commanded by Gen. Tran Van Hai, superintendent of the "National Police" raided living quarters of war disabled and their HQ. Hai threatened to kill or prosecute all disabled ex-servicemen who would oppose the puppet regime. He gave orders to dismantle hundreds of dwelling houses of war veterans and common people and to arrest over one hundred men "suspected of receiving aid from the communists."

Defying such brutalities and persecution, many disabled servicemen and war dead's families staged a sit-in in front of the Saigon "National Assembly," displaying posters condemning the puppet regime and demanding the release of all people illegally detained. The committee of action of the war invalids also sent a protest to Nguyen Van Thieu.

On September 7, instructions were given by the puppet authorities to military sectors to co-operate with military police in quelling the movement of war invalids in Saigon and other towns in the South. In Saigon, the Vice-President of the War Invalids' Association announced in a press conference that its members would organize a big demonstration in all towns and cities of South Viet Nam, and put 42 branches of that association on the alert for a confrontation with eventual repressive measures by the puppet authorities.